

# September Newsletter



Greetings from Prince Edward Island! Seventeen years ago, my newly engaged daughter began planning her wedding for the following summer. She asked me, "How about September!" And my reply was, "Two words: Hurricane. Season." (She picked a date in July!) And now here I am, on a long-planned vacation, and we've just spent our weekend waiting out Hurricane Lee. Happily, we only lost power for about 2 hours and the wind and rain hasn't stopped us from loving every minute in this little slice of heaven. "There's no bad weather, if you have the right clothes".

This past Wednesday was our annual Garden Club Tea, held at Blithewold. Despite the torrential downpour, the tea on the covered terrace was lovely and our speaker, Dan Christina, was fabulous. I guess I've been doing my dahlias all wrong, but somehow I manage to have twice as many tubers at the end of each summer than the year before. Either I am doing something right, or the kinds I have are fool-proof! I started with about 15 tubers 12-15 years ago, and now I fill four laundry baskets with tubers in the fall.



Upcoming club events: it's Daffodil Bulb time! The bulbs are arriving this week. Hope Avery has outdone herself on organizing and ordering our bulbs. Now we just have to all pitch in, round up our "voluntolds" and sell and plant bulbs! Round up your friends to help with this wonderful endeavor. Do you know anyone who has an auger? Beg to borrow it or better yet, beg them to help plant!

Important Daffodil Dates:

- September 30: Flea and Craft sale at Westfall Manufacturing, 15 Broadcommon Road. This event is presented by our club! We will have a booth there for bulb sales. Check in with Carol G if you'd like to help.
- October 7: the Greenhouse at Veterans Home Community 9-12. Daffodil planting will kick off there, and bulbs will be available for sale. Soil testing will also be available, thanks to the URI Master Gardeners.
- October 14: we will be selling bulbs at the Farmer's Market at MHF. Contact Hope if you can help.
- October 21: again at the farmers market, if we haven't sold out!

Note that initial bulb sales have been brisk, so please order quickly if you want some for your own garden. And they make lovely gifts!!

I recently sent out an email telling you all about the Hattie Ide Chaffe nursing home and their recently federated garden club. They are hosting a Community Gathering this Thursday, 21st, at 3:30. (200 Wampanoag Trail, Riverside). Please attend if you can to show our support. Laurel brought them a lovely bouquet and they were thrilled to receive it. Laurel was so glad that she went; she reports that she was given a tour, and that the residents are very excited about their club and the changes and updates they are making to an older facility. Their meetings are open to the public and their facilities are open for outside groups to hold meetings. We are also donating 150 daffodil bulbs for their new gardens.

If you have been downtown on Hope Street this past week, you will have noticed a vast improvement to the front of the Post Office! Major thank-yous go to Sheri St Germaine for taking the initiative to ask the postmaster what could be done to the very neglected garden beds. Our fairly new postmaster has been learning the ropes and trying to prioritize tasks, and the plantings were on his list, but not at the top...until August, when Sheri stopped in and had a chat with him. She told him about our club, its history, and our dedication to the beautification of our town. He gave her authorization to go ahead and pull weeds. Upon seeing dedicated club members pulling the weeds, he gave us the green light to renew this public space and draw up a plan for it. And then he found funds to make new plantings happen. Phase one is complete: thank you, Tony! The postal staff was so excited about changes being made, that employee Kim painted the door to the building and helped with pruning and mulching! Sheri, Laurel Curtis, Kathy Thomas, plus Steve Aveson and John Thomas, removed old stumps, cut back overgrown evergreens, and prepped the soil. Carol Glanville helped with plant choices, Mary Fran Snow assisted with the garden plans, Wendy Davis, and Hope and Jon Avery supplied backup support, and Barbara Curtis and Carol Botelho provided more physical labor putting in plants and mulching. The men at the town compost area were extremely helpful to Sheri with loading the new compost into her truck! The new evergreens and shrubs were planted over the course of one week, and mulch has been put down. Public response has been overwhelmingly appreciative. Check it out! And while you are there, please take the pathway down to the back of the library and enjoy the beautiful job Mary Fran and Hope have done with the library gardens. It's a little bit of serenity in a busy downtown.



Enjoy these last few days of summer. Start prepping your gardens for the winter, and when you do your pruning and winterizing, please give thought to what you can divide and or pot up now for our plant sale in the spring!

Gail

